

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:**

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of a member of the Royal Flying Corps, during the Great War 1914-1921.

**SUBMITTED TO:**

CWGC Commemorations Section  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
2 Marlow Road  
Maidenhead, Berkshire  
SL6 7DX United Kingdom  
Email: [commemorations@cwgc.org](mailto:commemorations@cwgc.org)

**Report Date:** 11 July 2016

**Reason for Submission:** ("X" means purpose of the report)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

**Supporting Documents:** (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Jeffs, Bertie Frederick G	i	Douchy-Les-Ayette British	<a href="#">link</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> Squadron, RFC	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
Corporal #3023	i	Plot 3 Row D Grave 7	i
Death: 10 October 1916	<a href="#">link</a>	Exhumation: 26 June 1924	i
Graves Registration Report	1	War Diary Extract(s)	
Concentration of Grave	2	Casualty Card	8
Exhumation Report	3	Flight Incident Records	9
Headstone Register	4	Grave Stone Details	
Area Map	5	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
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Possible Candidates List	7	Other	

**Summary of Findings:**

The Graves Registration Report ([GRRF 1996330](#)) form for Plot 3 Row D Grave 7 at the Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery lists an UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR of the Royal Flying Corps, killed in action on 11 October 1916.

An analysis of all of the documents for deaths on this date leaves no doubt that these are the remains of [Corporal Bertie Frederick George Jeffs #3023](#), an Observer flying in an FE2b "pusher machine" aircraft with a Serial Number 6992, piloted by [Flight Sergeant E. N. Haxton #649](#). Both men were killed behind enemy lines 3 km from Bapaume, France.

## Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 3 Row D Grave 7 are those of Corporal (Observer) Bertie Frederick George Jeffs #3023 of the 11<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. He is buried in the Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery in the grave next to the pilot of the aircraft, Flight Serjeant E. N. Haxton. Corporal Jeffs is currently listed as an UNKNOWN on the [Arras Flying Services Memorial](#).

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Graves Registration Report Form on file at the CWGC (GRRF [1996330](#)) for the Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery lists an “*Unknown British Aviator*” whose date of death is listed as 11 October 1916 (Attachment #1). The remains are buried in Plot 3 Row D Grave 7. Flight Serjeant E. N. Haxton is reported to be in Plot 3 Row D Grave 6, with a listed date of death of 11 October 1916.
2. The Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) BURIAL RETURN (COG-BR [1996298](#)) shows that these remains were exhumed from Grave #220 at the Fremicourt Communal Cemetery German Extension located at Trench Map Coordinates **57c.I.26.a.35.70** (Attachment #2). They were found beside the remains of Flt. Sgt. E. Haxton (*reads Hoxton*), killed the same day. The exhumations were completed by the *Etat Civil Français*. The records show the date of death as 11 October 1916.
3. A report of the Special Exhumation (SPECEXH [1996400](#)) of the remains on 26 June 1924 reports that the date of death was 11 October 1916 and that “*body badly smashed teeth. Upper Jaw Good. Lower Jaw smashed to pieces*”. It was also reported that the remains had Officers Clothing with No Boots or Badges (Attachment #3). Our candidate is not an Officer but would have been wearing conventional “flying gear” and it is unknown as to how the *Etat Civil Français* made the determination that this was “*Officers Clothing*”. The damage to the remains, as reported *badly smashed*, would be expected given that the candidate is reported to have *jumped from the plane* ([Henshaw 2014](#) – page 56).
4. The Headstone Register (HR [2094071](#)) does not record the remains as those of a British Aviator but rather “*An Officer of the Great War*” (Attachment #4). A casual observer at the cemetery would not be aware of the details of the remains buried below. The remains in Grave 7 are bedside those of the pilot in Grave 6 which is dated 11 October 1916 for Flight Serjeant E. N. Haxton.
5. The remains were located in the Fremicourt Communal Cemetery German Extension. A period map from the [Lloyd Reeds Map Collection at McMaster University](#) in Hamilton, Ontario Canada shows this is approximately 4,800 yards (~3 miles) east of Bapaume, France (Attachment #5).
6. The Village of Fremicourt was in German held territory in October 1916 and the village itself has distinct German fortifications around the perimeter (Attachment #6). Aviators that went down in this area would have been collected and buried by the Germans, as this was well behind enemy lines.

7. A review of all of the candidates in the files of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows that there were only five (5) aviators listed as killed in the period of 10 and 11 October 1916 (Attachment #7a). All five served with the Royal Flying Corps. There were no reported deaths in the Royal Naval Air Service. Only two (2) of the five (5) are UNKNOWN and listed on the Arras Flying Services Memorial ([Captain R. N. Adams, M.C.](#) and [Corporal B. F. G. Jeffs](#)). We note for the record that Captain R. N. Adams is also listed as having a "Special Cross" in Plot 2 Row C Cross 4 at the [Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs](#) (GRRF [2006590](#)). It is unknown at this time if that cross was removed when his name was added to the Arras Flying Services Memorial.
8. There is some confusion as to the date of death of all of these men as some of the forms say 10 October 1916 ([CWGC Jeffs](#)) and some say 11 October 1916 ([CWGC Haxton](#)). As noted previously, the GRRFs in Attachment #1 and COG-BR in Attachment #2 report the deaths as 11 October 1916, perhaps on the basis of the date of burial by the Germans. We know that Flight Serjeant Haxton (*Pilot*) and Corporal Jeffs (*Observer*) were killed on the same date, as they were in the same plane. The Casualty Card from the Royal Airforce Archives shows the date of death for Flight Serjeant Haxton as 10 October 1916 (Attachment #8). The "Casualty Card" for Corporal Jeffs is incorrect as it reports his date of death as 10 September 1916. This may be why identification was not previously made on the remains. We have shown the correct card for Flight Serjeant Haxton, the pilot, with the correct date of 10 October 1916. The date is not critical to this case, as we know they were both killed on the same date and there are no other recorded deaths on 11 October 1916.
9. The finding that the remains are those of Corporal Jeffs was made on the basis of the flight, the path and the crash area. It is reported ([Henshaw 2014](#) – page 56) that Haxton and Jeffs were on an Offensive Patrol northeast of Bapaume when encountered by 5 hostile aircraft at 10,000 ft. (Attachment #9). The plane went down in flames and broke up in a village about 3 km from Bapaume, which places it at Fremicourt. It was reported that the Observer (Corporal Jeffs) jumped from the burning plane, thus the "broken up" state of the remains that were exhumed. Conversely, Captain Adams was KIA over Achiet-Le-Grand and the Observer landed the aircraft in a shell hole near Meaulte, well into British held territory (Attachment #7b). That leaves only Haxton and Jeffs, buried beside each other, lost in German held territory. There are no reported RFC deaths on 11 October 1916, only Lt. Wadden was MIA and a POW ([Henshaw 2014](#) – page 57).

**Action Required:**

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

It is our contention that there is no doubt as to the identity of the remains in Plot 3 Row D Grave 7 at the Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery. We would suggest that the records be amended and the grave stone replaced to show that Corporal Bertie Frederick George Jeffs #3023 is buried in that location.

**Addendum Notice:**

At the time of the preparation of this report on 11 July 2016 we were not aware that a preliminary report on the identification of Corporal Bertie Jeffs had been made by John Hartley in May 2009 ([GWF Topic 123108](#)). That topic notes that the CWGC/MoD rejected the submission on the basis of the reported "Officer's Clothing" and that the burial on 11 October 1916 may have been coincidental.

At the time of the 2009 submission it was not known or reported that the remains were *"badly smashed" and that Jeffs had "jumped from the aircraft"*. From a detailed review of the records associated with the other men on the COG-BR, we know that a number of the records were mismatched. On the basis of that analysis, it is our contention that there can be no reliance on the report that the remains in Plot 3 Row D Grave 7 were those of an Officer. An Observer in a *"pusher machine"* would have been sitting on an orange crate and at 10,000 feet in an open cockpit would have been wearing anything possible to keep warm. The French Civil Authorities may have identified him as an Officer merely because he was an Observer dressed in flight gear.

We have provided the details of the confused records as an Addendum to this report (Attachment #11). There is no doubt that these are the remains of Corporal Bertie Jeffs.



# ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996330.JPG>

No.5 Area I.W.G.C.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

REPORT No. 2 SCHEDULE No. 337c 34c

COMMUNE: DOUCHY-les-AYETTE.

PLACE OF BURIAL: DOUCHY-les-AYETTE BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference: 57d.F.4.d.3.1.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>PLOT 3., ROW "D" (contd).</u>						
R.F.C.		UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR.		11.10.16.	E.	7. ✓
		UNKNOWN GERMAN SOLDIER.			E.	8. ✓
22/Sqdn.R.F.C.	X	BURGESS. ✓	Lieut., R.	2.7.16.	E.	9. ✓
14/York & Lancs.Reg't.	+	ROOS. ✓	Capt., G.O.	4.7.16.	E.	10. ✓
"B" Sqdn.S.Irish Hse.	2061	O'CONNELL ✓	Trooper., E.	19.3.17.	IWGC.	11. ✓
<u>PLOT 3., ROW "E".</u>						
26/A.I.F., M.G.C.	+	GARTRELL. ✓	Lt., W.M.	18.11.16.	IWGC.	1. ✓
22/A.I.F.	22225	MASSIE. ✓	Lt., H.V.	8.3.17.	IWGC.	2. ✓
28/A.I.F.	+	AHNALL (DMC.M) ✓	2/Lt., K.	28.2.17.	E.	3. ✓
19/A.I.F.	324	SMILES. ✓	Pte., F.S.	2.12.16.	E.	4. ✓
22/A.I.F.	5073	PEACOCK. ✓	Pte., W.A.	26.2.17.	E.	5. ✓
9/D.L.I.	4150	RUSSEL. ✓	Pte., C.	8.11.16.	E.	6. ✓
8/Norfolk Reg't.	43517	WARD. ✓	Pte., A.S.	6.10.16.	IWGC.	7. ✓
10/R.Dublin Fus.	17694	LEECH. ✓	Pte., H.C.	14.10.16.	IWGC.	8. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH OFFICER, 18.11.16. (Lieutenant)			E.	9. ✓

ENTERED 27.5.25  
CHECKED 2/6/25

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) FORM W30523

# ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return. <http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996398.JPG>

*DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE 2 - 61E*

**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (EXHUMATION AND REBURIALS)**

**BURIAL RETURN.**

W.G.R.1. No. 718 dated 16/4/23. A.R.E./221/4. 26/6/24.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE BRITISH CEMETERY. 574.F.4.d.3.1.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Original German Grave No.	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
3	D	32	574.I.26.a.35.70.	30	No	14/864 Pte. W. G. GOLDTHORPE 14/Yorks & Lancs., 4/7/16.	Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	33		40	No	<i>Unk. British Soldier.</i> 14/866 Pte. W. H. CLIMSON 14/Yorks & Lancs., 4/7/16.	Body naked. G.B. List & Plan.	SSP/4995/1008. Nil.
3	D	34		45	No	9985 L/Cpl. H. PARKER 1/E. Lancs., 7/7/16.	Clothing, G.S. Buttons, L/Cpl. chevrons, Trench Mortar Grenade on Sleeve.	Nil.
3	D	35		108	No	4836 Pte. B. TUPPER 24/Lancs., 19/9/16.	Clothing, Buttons, G.E. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	36		219	No	649 Plt. Sgt. E. HOXTON 11/Sad. R. F. O., 11/10/16.	Fragments of Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	37		220	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR R. F. O., 11/10/16.	Officers Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.

These removals were carried out by the East Civil Français, under the supervision of Mr. J. Rutter, F/Asst.

EXTENDED  
CLIFFS ORICKER  
No. 4 Area.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

RECEIVED  
WATERBURY 25/06/23. 9/23. S.O.F. 31.



# ATTACHMENT #3

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Report on Special Exhumation.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996400.JPG>

6/23 000/38

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES  
COMMISSION

Authority :- W.G.R.I. No. 718 dated 16/4/23.

Regtl. No.	
Rank	
Name	UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR
Regiment	R. F. C.
Place of Burial	PREMIERCOURT C.C.G.E. German Grave 57c.I.26.a.35.70. No. 220.
Date of Death	11/10/16.
Date of Exhumation	26/6/24.
Was a Cross on the Grave? If so, give particulars, and Inscription, if any.	No
Colour of Hair	Auburn.
Height	5'8" - 9".
Any physical peculiarities	None apparent.
Effects found on the body	None
Was an Identity Disc found on the body,	No
Description of Boots, Uniform, etc., with maker's name of Boots, if any, also Badges etc.	Officers Clothing. No Boots or Badges.
Any other information that may lead to identification.	Body badly smashed, Teeth. Upper Jaw Good. Lower Jaw smashed to pieces.

Douchy-les-Ayette B.C.  
2-D-14.

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES  
COMMISSION  
No. 4 Area

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 3/7/24.

Registration Officer  
No. 4 Area.

# ATTACHMENT #4

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Comprehensive Report (A) of Headstone Inscriptions.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2094071.JPG>

No. of Contract \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address of Firm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Imperial War Graves Commission.**

Schedule "A" Page 31  
Name of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS**  
to this report is attached  
**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS**  
(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined)  
and  
**TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS** (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design).

DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE B.C.  
To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—  
DOU/AY B.C.

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death. <small>In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6, the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.</small>	Centre of Stone.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7) P. R. G. (8) No. of Stone (9)
1039/1A	48766 PRIVATE	E. <del>ALLEN</del> <sup>ALLEN</sup>	6 MANCHESTER REGIMENT	25TH MARCH 1918	<sup>43</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 1 451
1039/1A	20157 PRIVATE	J. MOTT	5 MANCHESTER REGIMENT	25TH MARCH 1918	<sup>44</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 1 452
1039/1A	48608 PRIVATE	J. HOWARD	7 MANCHESTER REGIMENT	25TH MARCH 1918	<sup>43</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 1 453
LAYOUT 1H	EIGHT SOLDIERS	OF THE GREAT WAR			<sup>15</sup> CROSS	3 D 1 454
1185/1D	CAPTAIN	JOHN WILSON LAWSON, MC.	MACHINE GUN CORPS	24TH MARCH 1918	<sup>40</sup> AGE 29	CROSS 3 D 1 455
1039/1A	LIEUTENANT	A. DUNCAN	7 MANCHESTER REGIMENT	25TH MARCH 1918	<sup>41</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 1 456
1070/1A	14/864 PRIVATE	W. G. GOLDTHORPE	12 YORK & LANCASTER REGT.	4TH JULY 1916	<sup>42</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 2 457
LAYOUT 1H	A SOLDIER	OF THE GREAT WAR			<sup>15</sup> CROSS	3 D 3 458
1031/1A	9985 LANCE CPL.	H. PARKER	7 EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT	7TH JULY 1916	<sup>45</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 4 459
1061/1A	4836 PRIVATE	B. TUPPER	7 24TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT	19TH SEPTEMBER 1916	<sup>53</sup> AGE 21	CROSS 3 D 5 460
1192/1A	849 FLIGHT SERJT.	E. N. HAXTON	8 ROYAL FLYING CORPS	11TH OCTOBER 1916	<sup>50</sup> AGE 23	CROSS 3 D 6 461
1192/1C	AN OFFICER	OF THE GREAT WAR			<sup>60</sup> (FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. G/H.)	3 D 7 462
1192/1T/C	LIEUTENANT	R. BURGESS			<sup>60</sup> (FOR PARTICULARS OF LAYOUT INSC. ETC. SEE SCHED. T.)	3 D 9 463
1070/1A	CAPTAIN	G. O. ROOS	6 YORK & LANCASTER REGT.	1ST JULY 1916	<sup>41</sup> AGE 47	CROSS 3 D 10 464
1127/1A	2061 PRIVATE	F. O'CONNELL	9 SOUTH IRISH HORSE	19TH MARCH 1917	<sup>39</sup> NONE	CROSS 3 D 11 465

<sup>631</sup>  
<sup>17095</sup>  
<sup>17726</sup>

† A special LAYOUT is provided for use with this Headstone.

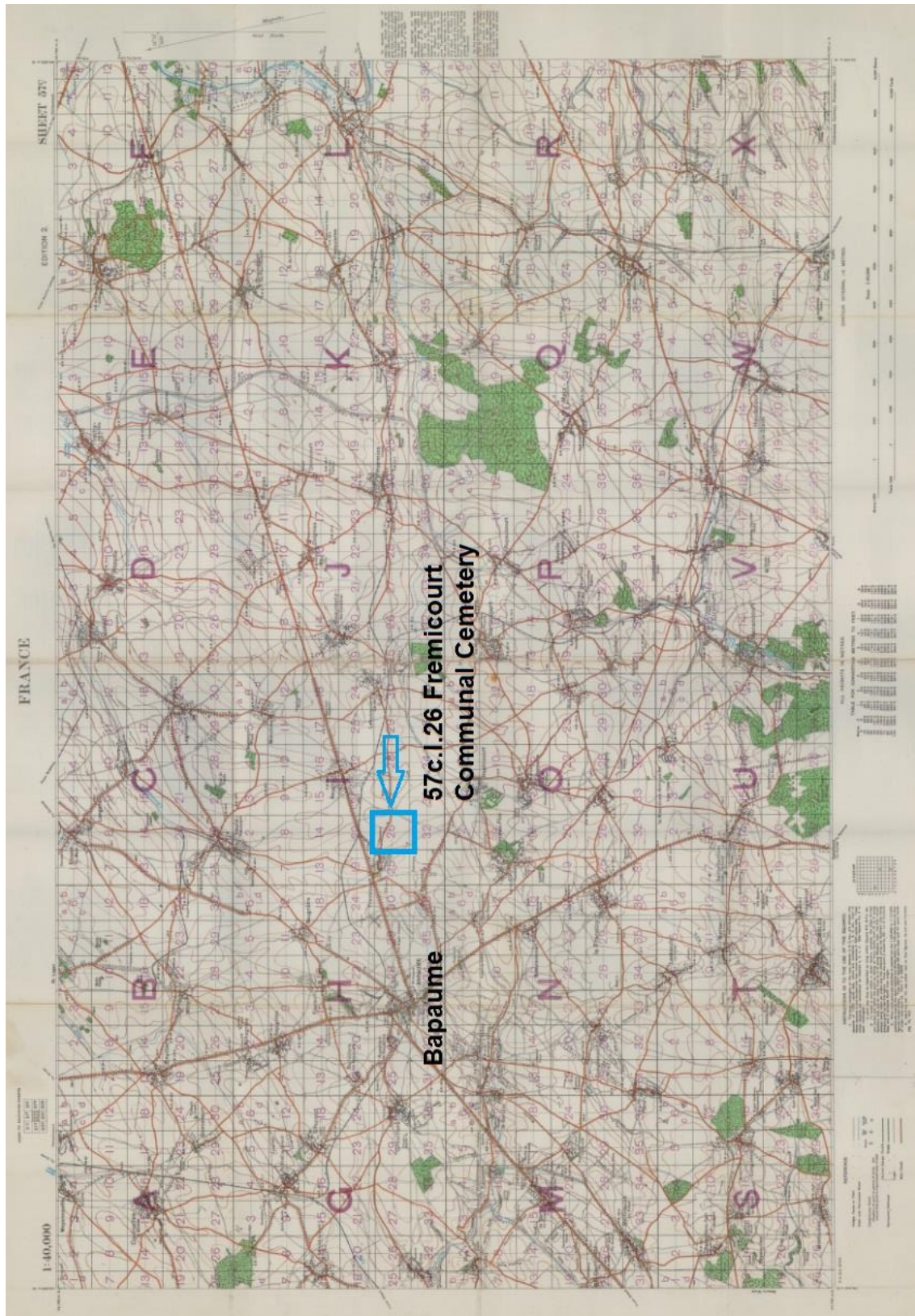
\*These headstones are not to be executed until further orders.

Proof Checked.  
Final Check No. 1.  
Office Copy Prepared.  
Final Check No. 2.



# ATTACHMENT #5

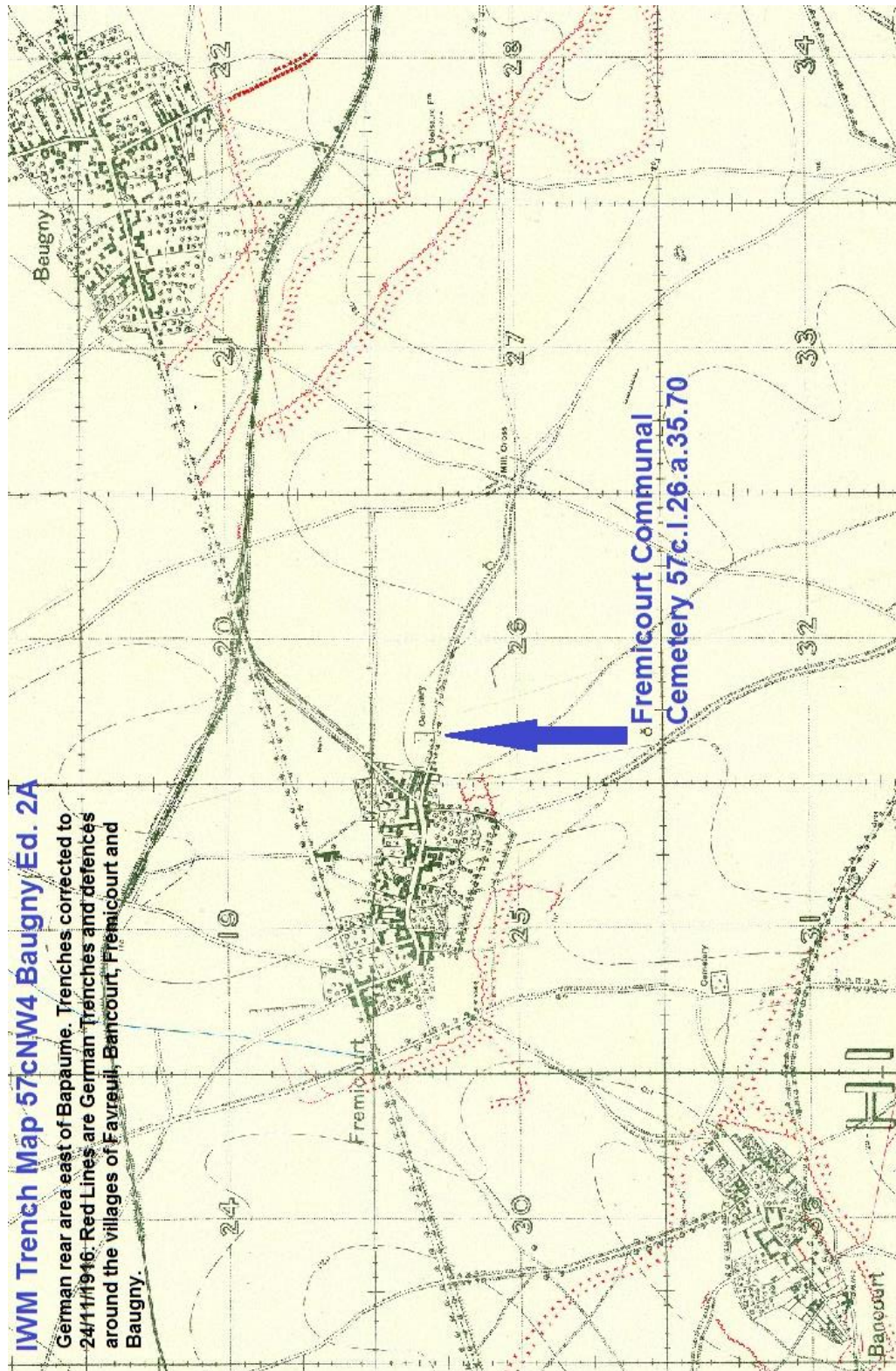
Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Bapaume Map  
389WW1MAP. <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4079/-/collection>





## **ATTACHMENT #6**

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas.57cNW4 Beugny Edition 2A Map wo297\_1356 Trenches  
Corrected 24/11/1916. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.







## ATTACHMENT #7a

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: United Kingdom Forces Served in Air Force, October 10-11 1916.* <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1>

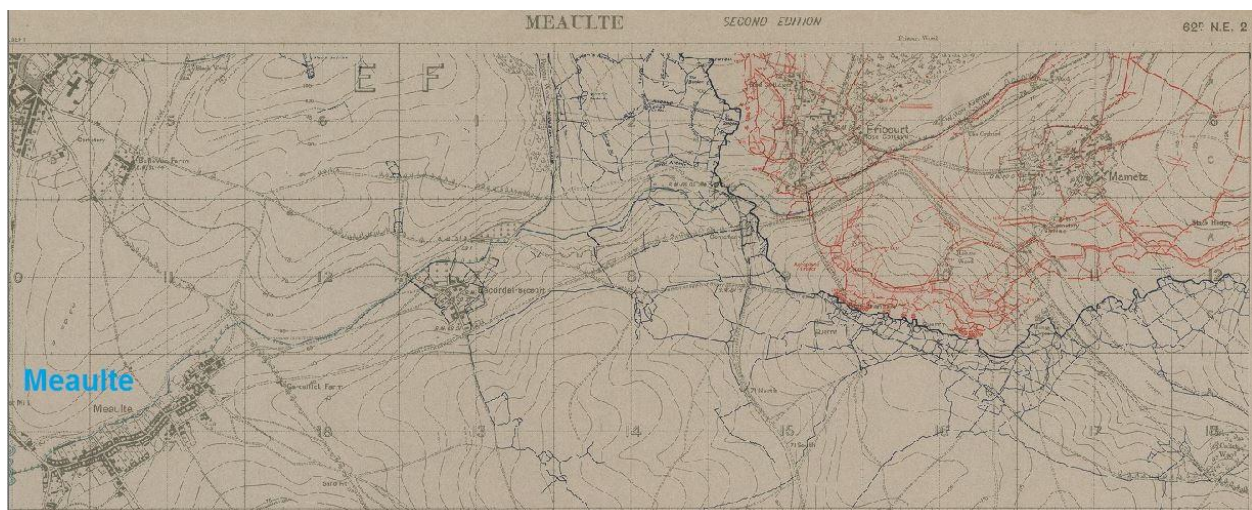
5 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
LAWLEDGE, FRANCIS MATT	Second Lieutenant		10/10/1916	38	Royal Flying Corps	United Kingdom	II. L. 23.	BAILLEUL ROAD EAST CEMETERY, ST. LAURENT-BLANGY	
HAXTON, E N	Flight Serjeant	649	11/10/1916	23	Royal Flying Corps	United Kingdom	III. D. 6.	DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE BRITISH CEMETERY	
HAYNE, MORETON	Second Lieutenant		10/10/1916	18	Royal Flying Corps	United Kingdom	VI. G. 15.	BROWN'S COPSE CEMETERY, ROEUX	
ADAMS, RALPH NEWTON	Captain		10/10/1916		Royal Flying Corps	United Kingdom		ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL	
JEFFS, BERTIE FREDERICK GEORGE	Corporal	3023	10/10/1916	21	Royal Flying Corps	United Kingdom		ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL	

*Note: There were no Aviators of the Royal Naval Air Service KIA at this time.*

## ATTACHMENT #7b

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas.62dNE2 Meaulte Edition 2[A]9S) Map wo297\_1614 Trenches Corrected 7/2/1916. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.



Blue Lines – British Front Lines  
Red Lines – German Trenches



# ATTACHMENT #8

Royal Air Force Museum Story Vault. Archives of the Casualty Record Series.

<http://www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk/archive/jeffs-b.f.g.-bertie-frederick-george>

(91) W5680/167 10,000. 4/17 Cax.P.Ltd.

## CASUALTY CARD.

Rank, Name and Unit Jeffer Cpl B.F.G. 5023 Tests completed \_\_\_\_\_  
B.F.G. Went overseas \_\_\_\_\_

Graduated as \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ At Time of Accident, Employed as \_\_\_\_\_

Date Report Received and Official Reference.	Date of Casualty	Where occurred.	Type of Machine.	Nature and Cause of Accident.	Result of Accident.	Name of other Occupant of Machine.	Remarks.
<u>Ep 1453/1</u> <u>Old Cas</u> <u>BK 125</u>	<u>10.9.16</u>	<u>France.</u>			<u>Killed in Action.</u> <u>Missing</u>		

Royal Air Force Museum Story Vault. Archives of the Casualty Record Series.

<http://www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk/archive/haxton-e>

(91) W5680/167 10,000. 4/17 Cax.P.Ltd.

## CASUALTY CARD.

Rank, Name and Unit Haxton F/Lt. E. 649 Tests completed \_\_\_\_\_  
B.F.G. Went overseas \_\_\_\_\_

Graduated as \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ At Time of Accident, Employed as \_\_\_\_\_

Date Report Received and Official Reference.	Date of Casualty	Where occurred.	Type of Machine.	Nature and Cause of Accident.	Result of Accident.	Name of other Occupant of Machine.	Remarks.
<u>Ep 1390/1</u> <u>Old Cas</u> <u>124.</u>	<u>10.10.16</u>	<u>France</u>			<u>Killed in Action.</u> <u>Missing</u> <u>rank data</u>		

## **ATTACHMENT #9**

Henshaw, T. 2014. The Sky Their Battlefield II. Warwick Printing Company Limited. Leamington Spa, United Kingdom.

**Bertie Jeffs on 10 October 1916:**

### **10th October**

A brief period of fine weather saw much more flying again. Offensive patrols were sent out in strength, and all met German formations and engaged them. Sopwith Strutters of 70 Squadron had a big engagement over Velu Aerodrome with Jagdstaffel 2, and although assisted by some DH2s and FE2bs, the RFC machines found the new German scouts extremely difficult opponents.

**6992      FE2b      11 Sqn**

**\*\*OP** combat with 5 HAs neBAPAUME 10,000' down in flames broke up crashed village 3m from BAPAUME **MIA** (FSgt EN Haxton **KIA**/Cpl BGF Jeffs **KIA**) left 2-40pm, observer jumped [?FE claim combat MORVAL, nePOZIÈRES pm, but see 4918 Hpt O Boelcke Ja2] Δ

**Single loss on 11 October 1916: (restricted flying)**

### **11th October**

Low cloud again restricted flying.

**2513      BE2c      13 Sqn**

**\*\*SpM** (B) left 11-05pm DOUAI A'dr, new engine failed, ftl ACHIET-LE-PETIT **MIA** (Lt G Wadden **POW**) Δ

Night bombing of Douai aerodrome and Vitry railway station was carried out by 13 Squadron and this loss occurred on this raid. 18 Squadron also bombed Cambrai, whilst 19 Squadron attacked Marcoing.

## **ATTACHMENT #10**

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Royal Flying Corps during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

This process differs from cases related to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) as these do not go first to the CWGC Canadian Agency in Ottawa. We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

<b>Guideline Criteria for Submission:</b>	<b>Evidence and Source Material:</b>
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources <i>e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.</i> must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material <i>e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.</i> should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources. Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	<a href="mailto:rlaughton@laughton.ca">rlaughton@laughton.ca</a>	Investigator & Report Author
Trevour Henshaw England	Aviation Author and Historian The Sky Their Battlefield II	<a href="mailto:tstb2@outlook.com">tstb2@outlook.com</a>	Investigator & Reviewer
Luc Degrande Belgium	Private Researcher	<a href="mailto:luc.degrande@outlook.be">luc.degrande@outlook.be</a>	Investigator & Reviewer



# ATTACHMENT #11 - ADDENDUM

The records of the CWGC report the following in regards to RFC Officers exhumed from the Fremicourt Communal Cemetery:

It was enlarged after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of Arras and the Ancre and from other burial grounds, including:-

FREMICOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY, in which 20 German soldiers and two R.F.C. officers (who died in 1916 in a German hospital in the Church) were buried.

**DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE 2-61E**  
**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).**  
**BURIAL RETURN.** W.O.R.I. No. 718 dated 16/4/23. A.R.B. 321/4.  
 No. 4 AREA. 26/6/24.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial: DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE BRITISH CEMETERY. 574.P.4.3.3.1.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Original Grave No.	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
3	D	2		30	No	14/864 Pte. W. G. GOLDTHORPE 14/Yorks & Lancs., 7/7/16.	Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	3		40	No	UNK. GERMAN SOLDIER. 14/Yorks & Lancs., 14/7/16.	Body naked. G.B. List & Plan.	53P/499/1008. Nil.
3	D	4		45	No	9985 L/Cpl. H. PARKER 178. Lancs., 7/7/16.	Clothing, G.S. Buttons, L/Cpl. Chevrons, Trough Mortar Grenade on Sleeve.	Nil.
3	D	5		108	No	4836 Pte. B. TUPPER 24/London, 19/8/16.	Clothing, Buttons, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	6		219	No	649 Plt. Sgt. E. HOXTON 11/864 R. F. C., 11/10/16.	Fragments of Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.
3	D	7		220	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR R. F. C., 11/10/16.	Officers Clothing, G.B. List & Plan.	Nil.

These removals were carried out by the Etat Civil Français, under the supervision of Mr. G. Rutter, F/Asst.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ENTIRED  
 11/10/24  
 22.10.24

**DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE 2-62E**  
**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).**  
**BURIAL RETURN.** W.O.R.I. No. 614 dated 7/2/23. A.R.B. 321/4.  
 No. 4 AREA. 26/6/24.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial: DOUCHY-LES-AYETTE BRITISH CEMETERY. 574.P.4.3.3.1.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Original Grave No.	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
3	D	8		16	Yes. Standard.	UNK. GERMAN SOLDIER. 14/Yorks & Lancs., 14/7/16.	Body naked, Certified Report and Plan.	4330/296. Nil.
3	D	9		19	No	UNK. GERMAN SOLDIER. 12/Squad, R. F. C., 12/7/16.	Khaki Shirt, Officers Cardigan, Jacket, and Flying Stockings.	4330/296. Fragments of Disc. 8/4/16.229.
3	D	10		20	Yes. Standard.	Capt. G. C. ROOS 14/Yorks & Lancs. Regt., 4/7/16.	Khaki Shirt, Officers Underclothing, Certified Report and Plan.	Nil.

These removals were carried out by the Etat Civil Français, under the supervision of Mr. G. Rutter, F/Asst.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ENTIRED  
 11/10/24  
 22.10.24

This has some bearing on the term "Officer" as the only two that survived the crashes and could have been hospitalized were 11th Squadron pilot **Flight Serjeant Haxton** in 3.D.6 (German Grave 219) and 22nd **Squadron Lt. Burgess** in **3.D.9** (German Grave 19). Neither of the original graves had a cross. To try and figure out how Lt. Burgess was placed in 3.D.9 is a complex puzzle in itself. The July 1924 Exhumation Report has Burgess in German Grave 18 not 19. This is depicted on the COG-BR above. Note on the COG-BR that Burgess was the original entry typed into **3.D.8** in Grave 18, which was then changed to an "Unknown German Soldier"? Thereafter Burgess was moved down one spot to where it initially said "Unknown British Officer". It was reported by Trevor Henshaw (page 41 TSTB II) that Lt. Burgess died of wounds, that his flight was on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme (not July 2nd as on the initial Exhumation Report).

REPORT ON SPECIAL EXHUMATION.	
Authority :-	W.G.R.L. No. 614 dated 7/2/23.
Regtl. No.	---
Rank	Lieut.
Name	R. BURGESS.
Regiment	22/Squad. R. F. C.
Place of burial	Premicourt C.C. German Graves 67c.I.26.a.3.5. 18.
Date of Death	2/7/16.
Date of Exhumation	26/6/24.
Was a Cross on the Grave. If so, give particulars, and Inscription, if any.	Yes. Standard Cross. Lt. R. BURGESS, 22/Squad. R.F.C., 2/7/16.
Colour of Hair	Black.
Height	5'8" - 9".
Any physical peculiarities	None apparent.
Effects found on the body	None
Was an Identity Disc Found on the body.	No
Description of Boots, Uniform etc. with maker's name of Boots, if any, also Badges etc.	Body naked.
Any other information that may lead to identification.	Teeth very good and even. Large Head.

3 - D - 15.

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES  
COMMISSION.  
No. 4 AREA

No. 4/7/24.

Date

*[Signature]*  
Registration Officer,  
No. 4 Area.

The exhumation report described the "Unknown British Officer" like a "Flying Officer". All we know about him was that he had bad teeth and fair hair that was turning grey. It is not logical that a description such as that would match a 24 year old Officer in the RFC:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/582746/BURGESS, REGINALD>

The original Burgess Exhumation Report shown above has him in a grave with a CROSS with black hair and no mention of the bad teeth. That description is a better match for Captain Roos of the 14th Bn. York & Lanks who was supposedly exhumed from German Grave 20, as he was 47 years old:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/583079/ROOS, GUSTAF OSCAR>

The problem with his exhumation report is that Captain Gustaf Oscar Roos has AUBURN hair (same as our UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR) and both his legs were broken and the body was badly smashed. That suggests another one jumped from a plane but he was not in the RFC? Interesting that he was identified by his underwear?

The body that is in that Exhumation Report was **naked** with good teeth and a large head. From that we can conclude that he was not Lt. Burgess if he was identified by his Officers Cardigan, Jacket and Flying Socks. They switched that one to the Unknown German Soldier.

The GRRF has Lt. Burgess in **3.D.9**:

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996330.JPG>

This was changed from the original:

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1996494.JPG>

They initially had him in Grave 2, which is the same as Grave 20 as there are two sets of numbers on the COG-BR for the German grave. They moved him back to Grave 1, which to me means the German Soldier and the initially UNKNOWN British Officer were buried in the same Grave 1.

It appears he died of his wounds on 7 July 1916; however there is no date of death on the alternate Exhumation Report. That is confirmed on the Casualty Card at the RAF Vault, which also states he was in Grave 20 at Fremicourt.



Reginald  
**CASUALTY CARD.**

(91) W5680/167 10,000. 4/17 Cax.P.Ltd. Tests completed ☒

Rank, Name and Unit Surgess, Lt. A. A.C. Went overseas Ob.

ATA 2284 At Time of Accident Ob.

Graduated as \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Employed as ...

Date Report Received and Official Reference.	Date of Casualty	Where occurred.	Type of Machine.	Nature and Cause of Accident.	Result of Accident.	Name of other Occupant of Machine.	Remarks.
Obt. 1.7.16 Loss Rm 7. 1.7.16  RofD. 44/69/4	1.7.16	France	78.2b		Missing P.O.W. Died 7.7.16 44/69/4	A.P.J.H. Lustbrook P/W.	no news. para 20. Fennicombe Mun. Cem. P.M. 167. 26.7.17.

Consolidating all this information shows that the paperwork on these men was in disarray and so we can never say that the UNKNOWN BRITISH AVIATOR was correctly identified when it was reported that he had "Officer's Clothing". If so, and the records are all fine, we have an Infantry Captain, who sounds like he was in a plane crash or jump, a RFC Captain who was naked, but wearing a sweater and socks, and lastly a 24 year old with greying hair and a 47 year old with black hair.

Family of Bertie Jeffs were consulted in the UK to determine if there was any information on the hair colour of Bertie. Although the family reported that a "*slim build and auburn hair*" was the common trait of the maternal line of the Jeff's family in the early 1900's, there was no photographic evidence that the man had auburn hair. The Attestation Papers and Service Record of Bertie Jeffs did not survive WWII and therefore that avenue of confirmation is impossible as well.

It is our conclusions that if you eliminate the "confused" descriptive details on these records and look at the case on the basis of the known facts, then the answer is clear. The only missing RFC man killed in that specific area on 10 or 11 October 1916 was **Corporal Bertie Jeffs**.